[Mr. S. Nilakanta Pillai]

(*a*) whether they have received any representation regarding the improvement and repair of the tank on the north of Navaikulam Temple;

(*b*) if so, when such representation was made; and

(*c*) whether it is a tank attached to the Navaikulam Temple or a Sirkar tank?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

(*c*) Sirkar tank.

Venkulam Railway Station.

344. ***MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil II*): With reference to Venkulam Railway Station, will the Government be pleased to state the amount of expenditure they will have to incur in constructing a station building?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No estimate for the work has been received from the Company. The site for locating the station is under correspondence.

The New Legislative Chamber.

345. ***MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON** (*Shertala I*): Will the Government be pleased to state when they hope to have the New Legislative Buildings completed and ready for use?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Detailed design and estimate for the work have not been prepared and it is too early to say when the work will be completed.

Appointment of Assistant and Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

346. ***MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the general rule that is observed in the selection of candidates for appointment as Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that it is the priority of applications and not the respective merits of the applicants that is the guiding factor in the making of such appointments?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Priority of application and the qualifications possessed by the applicants. The claims of communities which are not adequately represented in public service are also taken into consideration consistent with the above principles.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether there is any circular that M. B. B. S. Degree holders should be preferred to L. M. S. Degree holders?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If the member means a circular by Government, I am not aware of it.

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